



## **A monthly newsletter brought to you by the Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership**

**March 2016**

Dear Partners

To coincide with International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March, the Government released the new Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and action plan. Locally, the DASV Governance Board will be looking closely at the Strategy at their meeting in June to determine how we can contribute to the actions in Cambridgeshire (including Peterborough). You can read the new Strategy [here](#).

The Women of the World (WOW) Festival took place at the beginning of March and a series of events were held at the Cambridge WOW too, including my spot on the Men's Half Hour panel alongside Professor Graham Virgo of Cambridge University and actor Stephen McGann. Photos and podcasts from the festival will be available on <http://www.wowcambridge.cam.ac.uk/>

On 17<sup>th</sup> March, Vickie and Lizzie from the team attended the National Personal Safety Awards organised by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust where we were a finalist in the Safer Community category. Although we didn't win, we were so pleased to be shortlisted against people from national organisations like the Royal College of Nursing and Sky and we're really proud of all the work the team and partners do that got us to the finals.

Our quick survey about how useful you find our website is still open so please spare 2 minutes to let us know what you think  
<http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/survey/178418>

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and remember that you can submit articles to [Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

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## Upcoming Training

The dates and venues for Domestic Abuse training are below, to book, click on the following link and choose the 'Workforce Development Children's' option at the bottom of the page <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/learntogether/social>

### Introduction to Domestic Abuse (1.5 day course)

Wed & Thurs	18-19 May 2016	Stanton House, Huntingdon
Wed & Thurs	13-14 July 2016	Stanton House, Huntingdon

**Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment** - 26<sup>th</sup> April, 30<sup>th</sup> June, 11<sup>th</sup> October

**Children Experiencing Domestic Violence** – (dates pending)

**Engaging with perpetrators of DV** - 6<sup>th</sup> May

Details of all four levels of domestic abuse training offered in Cambridgeshire are now available on our website [http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/training\\_1/86050](http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/training_1/86050)

Specialist training is also offered by **Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)**. Most of these events are in London and there is a charge. For details of upcoming events please see [http://www.avaproject.org.uk/our-training--events/open-training.aspx?mc\\_cid=1ae5fd614c&mc\\_eid=273e6b246c](http://www.avaproject.org.uk/our-training--events/open-training.aspx?mc_cid=1ae5fd614c&mc_eid=273e6b246c)

## Fundraising for White Ribbon Campaign

£500 was presented to the White Ribbon Campaign, which was raised by the members and guests of Audley Lodge at a Burns Night raffle organised by Councillor Russ McPherson, one of the six Cambridge Male Ambassadors. Many congratulations to Councillor McPherson, who is pictured on the left holding the cheque.

For more information about White Ribbon Campaign visit <http://www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk/>



## **New NICE Quality Standard**

NICE have issued a new quality standard for domestic violence and abuse consisting of a prioritised set of specific, concise and measurable statements. The standards draw on existing guidance, which provides an underpinning, comprehensive set of recommendations, and are designed to support the measurement of improvement.

The domestic violence and abuse quality standard covers domestic violence and abuse in adults and young people aged 16 years and over. It covers adults and young people who are experiencing (or have experienced) domestic violence or abuse, as well as adults and young people perpetrating domestic violence or abuse. It also covers children and young people under 16 years who are affected by domestic violence or abuse that is not directly perpetrated against them, including those taken into care.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 sets out a clear expectation that the care system should consider NICE quality standards in planning and delivering services, as part of a general duty to secure continuous improvement in quality.

The standard can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs116>

## **Domestic abuse awareness for churches**

Restored is an international Christian alliance working to transform relationships and end violence against women. They have just re-launched their resource pack aimed at raising awareness of domestic abuse and calling for the church to speak out and challenge the global epidemic of violence against women. We have shared the resource with the Diocese of Ely and hope it will be used across Cambridgeshire.

<http://www.restoredrelationships.org/resources/form/58/continue/>

## **Healthy Relationships update**

Thanks to funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Healthy Relationships workshops are being planned at more schools across the county. The networking group met at the beginning of March and had a chance to see the latest PSHE Framework that the County Councils' PSHE team are working on for secondary schools. We don't know yet how the framework will be made available to schools but hope to see the final version in June. The group are planning to re-launch the SRE Gateway at the same time the PSHE Framework is released as a one-stop-shop for schools to source providers of SRE and PSHE information and workshops in Cambridgeshire.

## **Parenting Leaflets**

West Mercia Women's Aid kindly gave us permission to adapt their Domestic Abuse and Parenting leaflets for use in Cambridgeshire. The series of ten leaflets advise on parenting children that have experienced domestic abuse and cover ages from baby up to teenager.

The leaflets can be downloaded from our website at  
<http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/parenting/185992>

The original leaflets are quite wordy, so we are also developing a version that can be used with parents who have literacy or learning issues.

## **Unwanted sexual attention survey**

Almost two-thirds of women in the UK have had unwanted sexual attention in public places, a survey by YouGov has suggested.

Out of 889 women asked, 64% said they had experienced some form of sexual harassment, with 35% saying they had suffered "unwanted sexual touching".

The survey was commissioned by the End Violence Against Women Coalition.

Sarah Green, the coalition's acting director, said sexual harassment was "an everyday experience" in the UK.

The survey suggested that, of those who suffered unwanted sexual attention, more than a quarter were under 16 the first time it happened.

Those responding to the survey called for more police (53%), better street lighting (38%), and more staff on public transport (38%).

The survey is published alongside the release of a powerful new short film by Imkaan (3) and the EVAW Coalition, which features young black and minority ethnic women in the UK talking about their experience of sexual harassment and how it is often combined with racism. - See more at:

<http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/news/234/85-of-younger-women-in-uk-have-been-sexually-harassed-in-public>

## **Peterborough news wanted**

Now that the newsletter is covering Peterborough too, we would be grateful for any articles of good news, information or case studies from colleagues in Peterborough. Articles should be a maximum of one side of A4 if possible and we are happy to include pictures. Please send to [Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## **This is Abuse campaign – second phase launched**

The Government have launched the second phase of the This is Abuse campaign, about teenage relationship abuse, with Disrespect Nobody. The new campaign includes a website for young people (<http://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/>) and a series of television and social media adverts. The campaign has been negatively received by some people, with suggestions that it is sexist as the videos portray males as the main perpetrators of relationship abuse and sexual violence. However, it is known that women and girls are overwhelmingly the victims of these crimes.

The PSHE Association has produced [discussion guides](#) for schools (which suggest the topic is taught as gender equally as possible).

## **Women with disabilities and domestic abuse**

‘Losing out on both counts’ is the title of a seminar Dr Ravi Thiara delivered at the University of Bedfordshire, Kings College London, and The European Conference on Domestic Violence in 2015 and the Safe Lives conference in early 2016. It is a very fitting phrase; as Dr Thiara went on to explain how women who have the dual disadvantage of being both disabled and victims of domestic abuse can find themselves doubly disadvantaged when it comes to receiving appropriate support from professionals.

Health and social care services tend to focus on what they feel to be the key issue or barrier that is affecting the person. With a person with disabilities, it is usual to find that the disadvantages caused by the disability are well addressed – with provision of treatment, care, equipment and other resources to improve the person’s day to day life. But once an additional issue, such as domestic abuse, is introduced, it can be hard to ensure the person receives the support they need, whilst also taking into account their needs from disability.

Research tells us that women with disabilities experience more incidents of abuse and that this can be in additional ways – their risk is multiplied by vulnerability and isolation. Studies show that disabled women are twice as likely to experience gender-based violence as non-disabled women, yet are less likely to seek help. Gill Hague, Ravi K Thiara, Pauline Magowan and Audrey Mullender. Making the Links: Disabled Women and Domestic Violence. Women’s Aid: 2008.

In research carried out by Dr Thiara, women with disabilities talked about their experiences of domestic abuse and some of their words are used below along with

### Sexual violence

*“Yes I was exhausted, absolutely exhausted, shattered. And being deaf is hard work you know... .. And he’d be furious and slap me and kick me awake. And he used to say: ‘Don’t you fall asleep on me, I want a wife, a real wife not an old woman’. And you know it was sex all the time...he would shout at me and then hold me down and I hated it, I hated it.”*

In their 2011 report, Sexual Violence Against People with Disabilities: Data collection and barriers to disclosure, Rape Crisis Network Ireland found domestic abuse survivors with a disability disclosed a higher incidence of sexual violence solely as adults (42% compared with 30%) than people with no disabilities.

Survivors with disabilities who attended RCC services were more likely to have been subjected to a greater number of multiple incidents of sexual violence, than those with no disabilities (39% compared with 25%)

The barriers for people with disabilities to disclosing sexual violence were explored through an anonymous online survey of 137 people. Seven in ten of all respondents said that nobody had ever asked whether they had suffered sexual violence (71%)

### Abusive partner-carers

*“People pity him because he is taking care of you... people are reluctant to criticise this saint or to think he could be doing these terrible things. And possibly as well... people don’t really ‘see’ a disabled woman as a wife, partner, mother. So I think for some people it’s hard to think well this might be a woman who’s being sexually or physically abused by her partner, is experiencing domestic violence because disabled women don’t have sex, do they?”*

Where her main carer is also her abuser, women with disabilities will feel torn between a number of emotions. They may feel they can’t speak out about abuse because they should be grateful for the care they are receiving, or they might feel the abuse is their ‘payment’ in return for needing care from their partner. If she has children, she may worry that if she speaks out about the abuse her children will be taken away as she may be unable to care for them alone. Coercive control can be a key factor in domestic abuse and women, with or without disabilities, may feel glad that their abuser isn’t physically violent, but controlling behaviour can be a higher risk for the victim. The question ‘why doesn’t she just leave?’ is often asked, but what if you physically can’t get away? What if you can’t get dressed without the help of your abuser?

### Financial Abuse

This type of abuse is usually widely known and understood by practitioners but with women with disabilities there can be additional issues. The partner/carers may ascertain he is in charge of the finances as the woman is unable to do this herself which sounds very plausible but may also be a cover for financial abuse.



### Barriers to getting help

*“As a disabled woman, there is a reluctance to ask for help...you’re embarrassed and ... people are already giving you lots of support, you don’t want to add to it. You don’t want to become a bigger burden.”*

Asking about domestic abuse can be a real concern for professionals. Maybe they suspect something ‘isn’t right’ but presume that the woman would have told them if she was being abused – especially if she has been open about her disability issues. There are often worries about how to ask the question – will the client be offended? What if they do disclose – who can help them?

Most organisations are aware of their responsibilities to people with disabilities with regards to building adaptations, large print documents etc – but can a wheelchair user be housed in a refuge? What about her children? Who would provide her care? In addition, women’s refuges generally aren’t able to accommodate these women other than on a very short-term basis. If the woman’s house is adapted for her use, maybe the perpetrator could be removed, but how can she then stay safe in her home and keep her children safe?

### What can we do?

The women Dr Thiara spoke with had a number of suggestions:

- *Be informed about disabled women’s needs and consult with them about services*
- *Provide accessible well-publicised DV services that disabled women know about: tell women about them!*
- *Develop disability equality schemes with input from disabled women. Write into the strategies.*
- *‘Take disabled women seriously and don’t patronise us’.*

Firstly, and most importantly, professionals must ask about domestic abuse. NICE have guidance and a quality standard for domestic abuse which apply to all professionals in health and social care. These offer advice on how to approach the subject. Locally, both the Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership and Adult Safeguarding Team at Cambridgeshire County Council offer free training for professionals, including people working in support organisations or voluntary roles, around identifying domestic abuse and supporting victims.

There is also a need for more provision in regards to support and refuge accommodation for women with disabilities that are experiencing domestic abuse (or sexual violence). Commissioners should ensure that provision of support is included in strategies and provider contracts. The Government’s Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy (2016-2020) states that local commissioners will be ‘provided with tools and guidance to understand their duties and responsibilities enshrined within the Equality Act 2010 and victims’ legislation, which take account of the particular needs that BME, LGB&T and disabled women may have and the barriers they may face.’

Links also need to be formed between national and local domestic abuse and sexual violence services and organisations that support people with disabilities. Not everyone with a disability will receive social care support so a specialist disability organisation may be the only way to reach out to some women. These organisations are also often best placed to consult with and represent the views of their service users.

## **BBC shows how IDVAs support victims of domestic abuse**

A compelling BBC1 documentary, 'Behind Closed Doors', follows the story of three high-risk victims of domestic abuse through the Criminal Justice process and shows how the Oxfordshire Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service supports them.

Two victims are supported by staff from the charity Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse's IDVA service, and one by the DASH charity in Slough. The film was also made in conjunction with Thames Valley Police. The documentary reflects reality for thousands of victims of domestic abuse of all ages, genders, nationalities and faiths.

The programme is available to download on the BBC iplayer  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b07472y8/behind-closed-doors>

## **Space Project off to a positive start**

The Space project covers Cambridgeshire, offering an intervention to women who have had their children removed. The aim is to engage on issues the women want help with, in a flexible and supportive way. During the first 3 months of the space project we have received 15 referrals and are engaging with 13 women, 1 declined to engage and 1 we are waiting to hear from. The two project workers have provided support on housing issues, benefits, sexual health, contraception, mental health, dental care, GP access, attending college courses and many other areas in which the women feel they need support.

Any barriers have been easily overcome, eased by the flexible multi agency approach employed by the workers.

We continue to look for referrals and if you have a woman in mind, who has had a baby (aged 0-2) removed in the last 6 months, please email us in the first instance and we can talk about the referral. If it is thought to fit the criteria, we will email back a short referral form.

Please contact [spaceproject@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:spaceproject@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)







# National MARAC Summit



Download Brochure



Book Online Now

Improving the effectiveness of  
Multiagency Risk Assessment  
Conferences (MARAC)

**Tuesday 7th June 2016**  
**Hallam Conference Centre, London**

We are pleased to announce the **National MARAC Summit**. The conference aims to bring together MARAC Chairs, Members and Coordinators to understand current issues and the national context, and to debate and discuss key issues and areas they are facing in practice.

In addition to National Update sessions, practical case studies and extended sessions, there will be a **networking forum** for MARAC Coordinators to look at developing your skills as a MARAC Coordinator, supporting and training MARAC members, developing and understanding the criteria for MARAC referral and ensuring this is communicated and understood by frontline staff and current challenges for MARAC Coordinators.

*A reduced supported rate for MARAC Coordinators is also available.*

Colleagues from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough can claim a 20% discount by using code **hcuk20spkr**.



## Key learning objectives:

- Putting the person experiencing domestic abuse at the heart of services
- Early Identifying domestic violence high risk victims & referral to MARAC
- Developing and supporting the role of the MARAC Chair
- **EXTENDED SESSION:** What does and excellent MARAC look like?
- **EXTENDED SESSION:** Whole Family Support
- **EXTENDED SESSION:** Information Sharing and Information Governance within MARACs and Domestic Violence cases
- **Interactive Masterclass:** Developing the role of the MARAC Coordinator : Networking Forum
- **EXTENDED SESSION:** Perpetrator Programmes

## Hear from our expert speakers:

- **Davina James-Hanman** *Advisory Group Member* Domestic Violence Quality Standard NICE
- **Samantha Swift** *MARAC Chair* Wandsworth
- **Simon Kerse** *Partnership Manager* Cambridgeshire County Council *Lecturer* Anglia Ruskin University
- **Julia Houlston Clark** *Chief Executive* Welsh Restorative Approaches Partnership
- **Sally Milton** **STTEPS**, **DARFA** WRAP and STTEPS are partners in the DARFA Consortium
- **Christopher Fincken** *Chairman* The UK Council of Caldicott Guardians
- **Kirsty Ayton** *MARAC Co-ordinator* Haringey MARAC
- **Michael Allen** *Community Safety Manager* London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
- **Chris Newman** *PACT Trainer* Family Safety Assessments

# Do you know a child who has been affected by domestic violence?



Starting 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Ages 9-11 years

Venue to be confirmed

*"This is the best group ever, we do fun things, get to talk about our feelings and you really take care of us..."*  
(6 year old boy)

## The Community Group Programme for Children and their Mothers

The 12 week programme is an integrated community group programme for children and their mothers who have experienced domestic abuse.

Children's groups help children begin the healing process by:

- Allowing children to share their experiences with other children
- Exploring ways of expressing their feelings safely
- Looking at coping strategies for the future

Mothers' groups support women in understanding how to help their children recover by:

- Giving mothers an opportunity to meet other women who have had similar experiences and share their feelings
- Exploring the impact their experiences may have had on their children
- Finding ways to heal from the past and look to the future thereby strengthening the bond between mother and child.

Children can attend the programme even if their mother does not, but children respond best when mothers participate.



For further information and to make a referral please contact:

Name: Positive Pathways

Organisation: Ormiston Families

Tel: 01354 293123

Email: [positive.pathways@ormiston.org](mailto:positive.pathways@ormiston.org)